

Message Text

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12731 022018Z

43

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03 DODE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

SPC-01 DRC-01 /049 W

----- 017940

P R 021845Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7692

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 12731

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY: IN A LONG, AND QUITE THE MOST FRIENDLY CONVERSATION I HAVE HAD WITH HIM TO DATE, SWARAN SINGH LABELLED SEVENTH FLEET TASK FORCE A "COMPARITAVELY SMALL MATTER" WHILE ASKING FOR "FURTHER INFORMATION" AS TO (PRESUMABLY) ITS WHEREABOUTS OFFERED HIS JUDGEMENT THAT THE NEW REGIME IN AFGHANISTAN IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN SOCIAL-ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. IS NOT "ADVENTURIST" WITH RESPECT TO PUSHTOONISTAN; AND THAT THE AFGAN/PAKISTAN SITUATION MIGHT BE HELPED BY UNITED STATES OR SOVIET FRIENDLY OFFICES END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SWARAN SINGH WAS IN A RELAXED AND EASY MOOD, HIS CONVERSATION REplete WITH FRIENDLY REFERENCES TO AMERICAN, THE NEW SECRETARY OF STATE, SAN FRANCISCO, AND THE SIKH SETTLERS OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY OF CALIFORNIA. THE FOREIGN OFFICE PRESS SPOKESMAN HAVING TOLD A CANADIAN NEWSPAPERMAN THIS SECRET

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12731 022018Z

MORNING THAT THERE WAS GREAT ANGER OVER THE HANCOCK TASK FORCE AND THAT A GOVERNMENT BLAST WAS TO BE EXPECTED, I BEGAN BY RELATING THE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH KEWAL SINGH, AN ACOOUNT OF WHICHE HAD EVIDENTLY NOT REACHED NEW DELHI.

THE MINISTER WAS MILDLY CRITICAL OF THE WAY THE MATTER WAS HANDLED, WHAT WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, VARIOUSLY PERSONIFIED, SAYING FIRST ONE THING, THEN ANOTHER, THEN SOME THING ELSE ALTOGETHER. SUCH PLANS HE SAID ARE "BEST SHARED". AS TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS, EITHER "SAY WHY OR SAY NOTHING" HE VOLUNTEERED THAT AMERICAN VESSELS HAVE BEEN REGULARLY SAILING "IN OUR PARTS", REFERRING TO THESE AS "THE HIGH SEAS" BUT HE ASKED WHY IT WAS NECESSARY TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT AT ALL. IF NECESSARY, HE ADDED IT SHOULD BE A STATEMENT OF "CONGENY AND CONSISTENCY".

2. ALL THIS WAS EASY AND JOLLY. THE FIRST TIME, ACTUALLY, I HAVE FELT AN INDIAN WORKING ON ME. HOWEVER, THE ODDS ARE VERY HIGH THAT SWARAN SINGH WILL MAKE A FAIRLY STRONG AND EVEN CONDEMNATORY STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT IN A FEW WEEKS TIME, IF ONLY TO ESTABLISH SOLIDARITY WITH THE AFRICAN AND ARAB LITTORAL STATES WHICH ARE DOING SO. NOENTHRELESS, THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO BE DIPLOMATIC. (WHICH SUGGESTS OUR JOB HERE MIGHT COMMENCE TO BE MORE PLEASANT AND MORE DEMANDING).

3. THE MINISTER NOTED HE HAD JUST MET WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. ONE MEMBER WHO TOOK THE "COMMUNIST LINE" DEMANDED THAT THE AMERICAN ACTION BE CONDEMNED. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, IT WAS A "COMPARATIVELY SMALL MATTER" AND REQUIRED NO PARTICULAR ACTION. HE WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHETHER HE HAD SAID THIS TO THE COMMITTEE, OR WAS JUST OFFERING HIS OWN OPINION TO ME. HE CONSLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD IN ANY EVENT LIKE "FURTHER INFORMATION" ON THE SUBJECT. I AGREED TO GET IT. I DID NOT ASK WHAT KIND OF INFORMATION AS I ASSUME WE WILL WANT TO CHOOSE WHAT WEH HAND OVER, BUT OBVIOUSLY SOME KIND OF SAILING PLAN IS THAT HE HAS IN MIND. HIS TONE THROUGHOUT THIS AND THE SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WAS A DIRECT EXTENSION OF THE APPARANT ATMOSSPHERE OF HIS LUNCH WITH THE SECRETARY OCTOBER 3. I WAS STRUCK BY HIS REFERRING TO A PARLIAMENTARIAN WHO TOOK "THE COMMUNIST SECRET

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12731 022018Z

LINE" THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC TYPE REMARK I HAVE YET HEARD FROM A HIGH INDIAN OFFICIAL. (FOR ALL I KNOW IT WAS A REPUBLICAN TYPE REMARK. ANYWAY IT WAS THE FIRST I HAVE HEARD).

4. ON AFGHANISTAN HE SAID LITTLE AT SOME LENGTH. HE RECALLED SPECIFICALLY UNDERTAKING TO PASS ON HIS IMPRESSIONS TO THE SECRETARY. HE HAD THREE IMPRESSIONS. FIRST THAT THE "MAIN PREOCCUPATION" OF THE NEW REGIME WAS IN THE "SOCIAL-ECONOMIC FIELD" HE CONSIDERED THAT "WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST WITH YOUR COUNTRY" IN SEEING SUCH INTERESTS ENCOURAGED AND FACILITATED, AS WHATEVER HELPS THE PEOPLE THERE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO "STABILITY". THIS IS BECAUSE THE REGIME "REALIZE THAT TO ACHIEVE THESE

OBJECTIVES THERE MUST BE PEACE". HE SAID HE HAD BEEN "AGREEABLY SURPRISED" TO FIND THIS SO. SECOND, WITH RESPECT TO PUSHTOONISTAN THE NEW REGIME IS DOING NO MORE THAN "RECREATING THE AFGHAN POSITION...ON SAME LINE THAT ALL PREDECESSOR GOVERNMENTS HAVE DONE. WHATEVER GOVERNMENT THERE HAS BEEN HAD ADVANCED THE PUSHTOONISTAN ISSUE". THIS HAS NEVER BEEN SPELLED OUT CLEARLY, WHETHER "DELIBERATLY" OR NOT, IT REMAINED VAGUE. BUT THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS REGIMES POSITION (COMMENT: THIS NOT SO AT VERY LEAST WE ARE BACK TO DAUD'S OLD POSITION). THIRD, HE REPORTED THAT EVEN SO THE REGIME IS WORRIED THAT THEIR QUITE TRADITIONAL POSITION IS PICKED UP WITH ALARM BY OTHER CAPITALS- "ISLAMABAD, PERHAPS WASHINGTON". THEY ASK "WHY HAS THIS SUDDENLY CHANGED. THIS POSITION CAUSED NO RIPPLES IN THE PAST". 2#6, THEN ASK "IS PAKISTAN NOW MORE BELIGERANTLY VOCAL THAN IN THE PAST" THEY ALL FEEL THAT JUSTICE IS NOT BEING DONE TO PUSHTOON, AND "NO AMOUNT OF SHOUTING WILL PREVENT THEM FROM RAISING THEIR VOICES".

5. THE MINISTER OFFERED HIS OWN VIEW THAT "ALL OF US HAVE A DUTY TO BE UNDERSTANDING" OF THE AFGHAN POSITION. "WE CAN HAVE NO OBJECTION, WE SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO STRIFLE THEIR RAISING THIS ISSUE". AS HE PUT IT, "I LISTENED". BUT HE ADDED HIS VIEW THAT IT WAS THE CASE THAT THE PAKISTANI PUSHOONS HAVE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES. THEY SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR AUTONOMY OR FOR A GREATER SAY IN THEIR AFFAIRS. HE FEELS THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT HANDLING OF THESE GRIEVANCES MAY CAUSE "SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS". EVEN WHEN HE WAS CONVINCED THE AFGHAN REGIME HAS "NO ADVENTURIST APPROACHES TO SECRET

PAGE 04 NEW DE 12731 022018Z

THIS PROBLEM" THEY ARE NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY "MILITARY ACT".

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE FEELS NO ONE CAN SAY THEY MAY NOT HOLD THE VIEWS THAT THEY DO.

6. HE REPORTED THAT THE AFGHANS FEEL THAT THE PAKISTAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THEM IS "PROVOCATIVE". IN TURN HE SAID THAT OUR RELATION

WITH PAKISTAN ARE NOT SUCH AS TO ENABLE US TO PERSUADE THEM, BUT TO INDULGE IN PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES. OTHER COUNTRIES COULD." I ASKED WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES. HE REPLIED THE UNITED STATES, THEN ADDING THE SOVIET UNION.

7. I ASKED WAS INDIA PLANNING TO GIVE ADDITIONAL "HELP" TO AFGHANISTAN. HE SAID "OUR HELP HAS NOT BEEN MUCH" THE UNITED STATES HAD DONE MANY THINGS. HAD BUILT ROADS. THE ONLY IMPORTANT THING INDIA HAD DONE WAS TO BUILD THE (OR A - I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PROJECT) CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL. HE SAID "WE MAY BE ABLE TO S

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, PUSHTUNISTAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE12731
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqceged.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 12 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, (SINGH, SWARAN)
To: STATE INFO CALCUTTA
BOMBAY
MADRAS
ISLAMABAD
KABUL
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

